Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended). A method for treating a wound by removing a protease from the site of the wound, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) selecting a protein-containing fibrous component capable of removing a protease, wherein said protein-containing fibrous component consists essentially of protein fibers;

(b) forming a wound dressing from said protein-containing fibrous component;

(c) selecting at least one protein from the group consisting of growth factors, cytokines, and chemokines for application to ~~said~~ a wound site;

(d) applying said wound dressing and said protein to ~~said wound~~ the wound site so that said protein-containing fibrous component is in contact with the wound site and allowing at least a portion of said protease found at ~~said~~ the wound site to be attracted to and entrapped by said protein-containing fibrous component; and

(e) removing said wound dressing from ~~said wound~~ the wound site so that at least a portion of said protease is removed from ~~said~~ the wound site.

Claim 2 (currently amended). The method of claim 1 wherein said ~~protein-containing fibrous component comprises~~ protein fibers are silk fibers.

Claim 3 (currently amended). The method of claim 1 wherein said ~~protein-containing fibrous component comprises~~ protein fibers are wool fibers.

Claim 4 (currently amended). The method of claim 1 wherein said protein-containing fibrous component ~~comprises~~ is a protein-containing fabric.

Claim 5 (currently amended). The method of claim 4 wherein said protein-containing ~~fibrous component comprises~~ fabric is a silk gauze.

Claim 6 (canceled). ~~The method of claim 1 wherein said dressing is formed from a non-protein-containing material in addition to the protein-containing fibrous component.~~

Claim 7 (canceled). ~~The method of claim 6 wherein said non-protein-containing material comprises cotton fibers.~~

Claim 8 (canceled). ~~The method of claim 7 wherein said cotton fibers are interwoven with said protein-containing fibrous component.~~

Claim 9 (canceled). ~~The method of claim 8 wherein said protein-containing fibrous component comprises silk fibers.~~

Claim 10 (original). The method of claim 1 wherein said protease comprises elastase.

Claim 11 (original). The method of claim 1 wherein said protease comprises neutrophil elastase.

Claim 12 (original). The method of claim 1 wherein said protease comprises gelatinase.

Claim 13 (original). The method of claim 1 wherein said protease comprises gelatinase B (MMP-9).

Claim 14 (original). The method of claim 1 wherein said protease comprises plasmin.

Claim 15 (currently amended). The method of claim 1 wherein said protein is applied to said wound site as a component separate from said wound dressing.

Claim 16 (original). The method of claim 15 wherein said protein is applied to said wound site in the form of an ointment, lotion, solution, or gel.

Claim 17 (original). The method of claim 1 wherein said protein is included as part of the wound dressing itself.

Claim 18 (original). The method of claim 1 wherein said growth factor is chosen from the group consisting of platelet-derived growth factors, vascular endothelial growth factors, transforming growth factors, fibroblast growth factors, and epidermal growth factors.

Claim 19 (currently amended). A method for treating a wound by removing a protease from the site of the wound, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) applying a wound dressing and at least one growth factor to ~~said~~ a wound site wherein said wound dressing comprises a protein-containing fibrous component capable of removing said protease, wherein said protein-containing fibrous component consists essentially of protein fibers and wherein said wound dressing is applied so that said protein-containing fibrous component is in contact with the wound site; and

(b) allowing said wound dressing to withdraw and entrap said protease so that healing of ~~said~~ the wound is promoted.

Claim 20 (currently amended). The method of claim 19 wherein said growth factor is applied to said wound site as a component separate from said wound dressing.

Claim 21 (original). The method of claim 20 wherein said growth factor is applied to said wound site in the form of an ointment, lotion, solution, or gel.

Claim 22 (original). The method of claim 19 wherein said growth factor is included as part of the wound dressing itself.

Claim 23 (original). The method of claim 19 wherein said growth factor is chosen from the group consisting of platelet-derived growth factors, vascular endothelial growth factors, transforming growth factors, fibroblast growth factors, and epidermal growth factors.

Claim 24 (currently amended). A wound dressing for removing a protease from the site of the wound and supplying a growth factor to ~~said~~ a wound site, said wound dressing comprising:

(a) a protein-containing fibrous component consisting essentially of protein fibers, wherein said protein-containing fibrous component is structured so that said protein-containing fibrous component will be in contact with the wound site when the wound dressing is applied to the wound; and

(b) at least one growth factor

wherein a protease found at ~~said~~ the wound site may be attracted to and entrapped by said protein-containing fibrous component.

Claim 25 (currently amended). The wound dressing of claim 24 wherein said ~~protein-containing fibrous component comprises~~ protein fibers are silk fibers.

Claim 26 (currently amended). The wound dressing of claim 24 wherein said ~~protein-containing fibrous component comprises~~ protein fibers are wool fibers.

Claim 27 (currently amended). The wound dressing of claim 24 wherein said protein-containing fibrous component ~~comprises~~ is a protein-containing fabric.

Claim 28 (currently amended). The wound dressing of claim 27 wherein said protein-containing fibrous component ~~comprises~~ is a silk gauze.

Claim 29 (original). The wound dressing of claim 24 wherein said dressing further comprises a non-protein-containing material in addition to the protein-containing fibrous component.

Claim 30 (canceled~~). The wound dressing of claim 29 wherein said non-protein-containing material comprises cotton fibers.~~

Claim 31 (canceled). ~~The wound dressing of claim 30 wherein said cotton fibers are interwoven with said protein-containing fibrous component.~~

Claim 32 (original). The wound dressing of claim 24 wherein said growth factor is chosen from the group consisting of platelet-derived growth factors, vascular endothelial growth factors, transforming growth factors, fibroblast growth factors, and epidermal growth factors.